

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claim 1 is amended. No new matter is added.

Support for the amended language of claim 1 is provided, for example, by original claim 2, page 13, lines 4-11 and Fig. 1 (a), (c), (d).

As amended, claim 1 recites a quartz base material for an optical fiber consisting of three refractive index areas, namely a core, a deformed first clad and a second clad wherein a section of the first clad has a deformed shape with at least one linear part and the second clad has a round section, the main material of the first clad and the second clad are the same, and a length of the longest part of the deformed section of the first clad is 15 mm or less. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references of record disclose, teach or suggest these claimed features.

In the February 26, 2003 final Office Action in the parent application, claims 5-8 and 11-14, corresponding to original claims 1-8 of this application, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) respectively over Kajioka et al., Paek et al. and Ishiguro et al.

However, as acknowledged by the final Office Action in the parent application, there is no description or suggestion in these cited references that a length of the longest part of the deformed section of the first clad is 15 mm or less. (Page 3, lines 4-6 of the final Office Action.)

Because the base material according to claim 1 has a feature that a length of the longest part of the deformed section of the first clad is 15 mm or less, problems such as breakage or cracks that occur when a glass rod having a first deformed section is axially deposited with porous glass fine particles are reduced and/or avoided, and yield and productivity are improved, lowering the manufacturing cost. See, for example, page 7, lines 21-25 of the specification of this application.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over the references applied in the parent application. Further, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-8 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 1 from which they depend, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 21, 2003

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